

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 4-20-54 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 4-19-54

WEATHER Temperatures averaged about 9° above normal for the week, although Friday morning was quite cold with temperatures below freezing over west and central portions. The lowest reported was 14° at Bridgeport. Showers fell over most of the State during the week. A few localities in east and central portions had moderate to heavy amounts.

CROPS The wheat outlook remained unchanged during the past week. The deterioration in the two southern tiers of counties was offset by improvement from the rains in central, east-central and northeastern Nebraska. The Panhandle wheat needs moisture but wheat still made satisfactory progress, except in Kimball county where root rot was reported heavy, and it appears that abandonment will be high. A few southeastern counties are reporting as low a condition as reported in some of the southwestern counties.

The spring soil moisture survey in wheat fields was started this week and will be completed next week. A Weather Bureau report shows 55% of the stations above normal moisture for the six months ending March 31; 33% reporting 80% to 100% of normal, while the balance or 12% report below 80% of normal, and the State average 106% of normal. This indicates that the moisture supply is generally better than believed. High winds and blowing soil probably contribute as much or more to the damage of winter wheat than lack of moisture. Precipitation varied considerably, leaving local areas very short, while nearby areas received considerably above normal.

Farm field work made good progress over most of the State during the past week. About 92% of the oats have been planted and 90% of the spring wheat and barley. The condition of oats and barley show some improvement over the previous week. Alfalfa, wild hay and pasture also show some improvement but are a little slow. Good spring rains are needed badly throughout the State.

LIVESTOCK With few exceptions, feed supplies are reported ample. Reports on the pig crop and calf crop are generally favorable. Pasture rates are high. Some wheat pasture is being used. Cattle on feed in Nebraska on April 1 were only 3% below that of a year ago, while numbers in the entire North Central group of states were only 1% below that of a year ago.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1954

<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>Central Division</u>	<u>Western Division</u>
Grand Island 0.13	Burwell 0.26	Chadron 0.15
Lincoln 0.26	Lexington 1.22	Imperial 0.01
Norfolk 1.67	North Platte 0.06	Scottsbluff 0
Omaha 0.39	Valentine 0.16	Sidney 0
Sioux City 0.59		
(Precip. Apr. 1-16 '54)	<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>Central Division</u>
Average past week	0.46	0.28
Total since April 1	0.58	0.28
Normal since April 1	1.19	1.09

	<u>Western Division</u>
	0.18
	0.18
	0.93

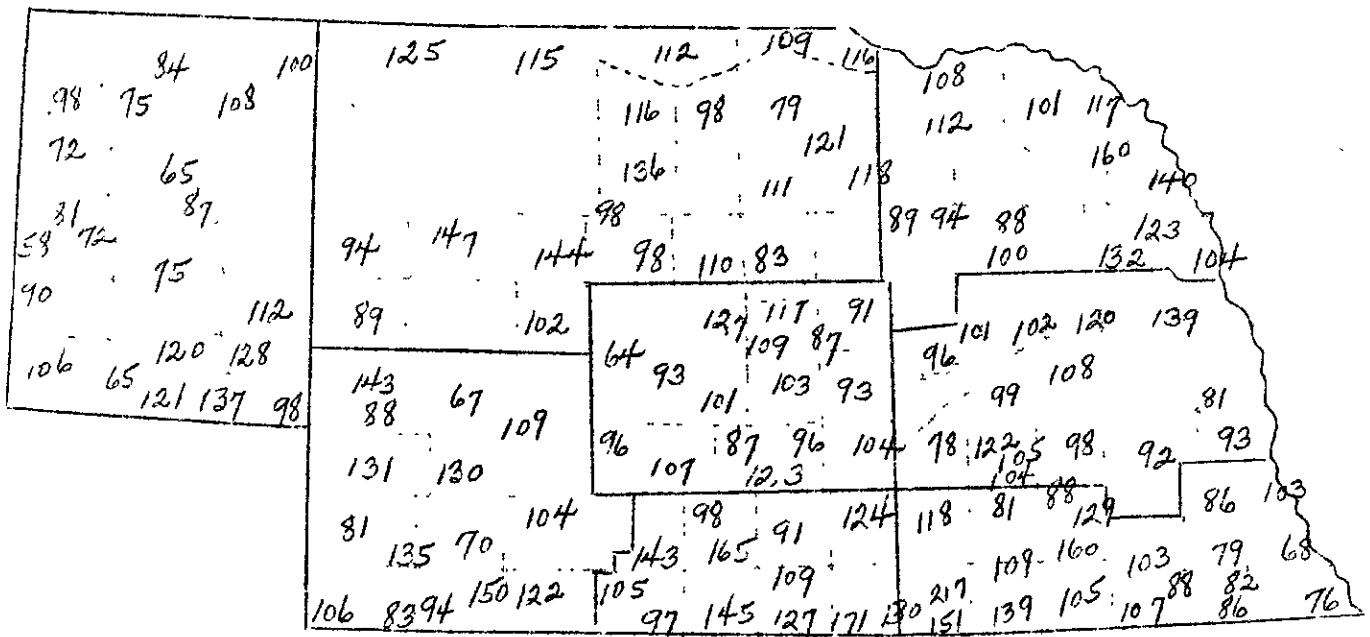
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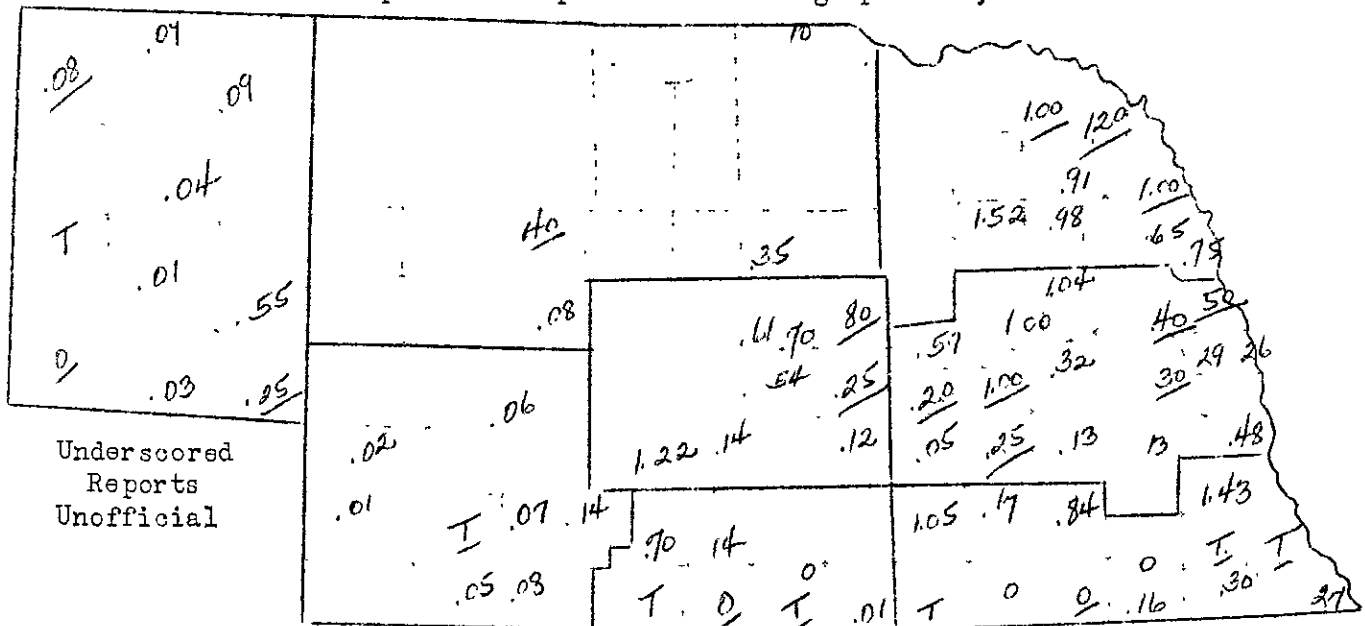
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4-20-54

Percent of Normal Precipitation, October 1-March 31, 1953-54



Precipitation Map for Week Ending April 16, 1954



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Max. for preceding 24 hours, Min. for preceding night)

		April		13th		14th		15th		16th		17th		18th		19th	
				Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron			73	41	81	42	71	40	49	24	69	39	75	29	62	37
	Scottsbluff			70	38	79	44	71	35	47	20	70	37	78	39	68	40
	Sidney			66	35	76	40	73	34	45	15	68	31	80	33	76	39
N-C	Burwell			69	44	84	43	89	46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Valentine			67	43	82	43	80	44	51	27	66	44	74	37	65	32
NE	Norfolk			69	46	80	51	91	53	--	--	--	--	80	45	69	43
	Sioux City			68	48	80	51	90	55	61	34	60	39	79	48	66	44
Cen.	Grand Island			68	48	80	48	84	52	65	30	66	42	82	52	70	45
	Lexington			68	45	83	37	87	46	55	29	68	35	82	40	71	44
E-C	Lincoln			67	47	77	56	81	58	66	36	64	44	84	46	69	46
	Omaha			67	46	76	55	86	59	67	39	62	41	82	46	73	47
SW	Imperial			66	40	87	41	81	40	51	25	70	37	83	40	75	41
	North Platte			67	45	83	36	83	46	55	22	69	30	82	39	75	40

The top chart shows that very dry areas for the entire six months since October 1st are rather small and few over Nebraska. The precipitation came in large amounts, with a considerable time interval between storms. This type of precipitation favors replenishment of subsoil moisture, but leaves the surface very dry for considerable periods of time.

The moisture from heavy rains or snows like we had last winter penetrates deeply into the soil, and evaporation then only dries the surface layer. The only unfavorable element in replenishing the subsoil moisture is that the snows blew off the fields over much of the western portion of the State. In the east, most of the precipitation fell as slow rains, freezing rains, or wet snows, so there were no drifting losses.

Except for the dry areas and where most of the moisture fell as drifting snow, there should be a fairly good supply of subsoil moisture in the soil this spring. In the west, corn stalk or stubble fields probably held the snow, and they should also be well supplied.